

Parting Shot

Having had no Parting Shot submissions for this Issue, you've got me again :-)

Not long after I'd moved down to the westcountry of the UK in 2006 I started diving with a local group of longtime friends whose main interest was, shall we say, not photographically aligned. Their idea of equipment that needed to be handed up after a dive was a ferrous laden goody bag and the idea of finding somewhere safe to put a delicate namby pamby underwater camera with protruding dome port took a while for them to get used to.

The boat banter was fast and quick witted, the dive gear was deliberately minimal and kitting up was made to look effortless. Putting on tried and tested equipment was second nature and the banter continued throughout.

Underwater the mission began. No "Are you OK?" signals on the surface, just a pair of fins disappearing down the shot line. Once at the shot a reel line was attached so that they could always come back to and up the shot.

The reel line was very useful for me because by the time I'd taken my dome port cover off, turned the camera on and done a manual white balance, that was all there was to indicate that I had a dive buddy. Following the line meant I'd find a subject to photograph so off I went.

Whilst the reel line was the first indication of where my buddy was, there was also an audible signal coming from a hammer on metal sound.

Having caught up with him I realised it would be pointless asking him to pose - a little more to the right, please. No, up just a little and now breathe out when I give the signal. Forget it. It had to be one shot timed for when they looked up to check who the hell is that and before they got back down to the metal matter in hand.

I did get it in one with a Nikon D70 in a Subal housing with a Nikkor 10.5mm Fisheye. F2.8 @ 1/10th sec. 400 ISO. Available light with a Greenwater Magic filter.

Underwater photographers are always a pain in the arse for 'ordinary' divers until they see the image and say "I'd love a copy of that".

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**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**
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